

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

BILL CANNON,

Plaintiff,

- against -

ASSETPRO MANAGEMENT, INC.

Defendant.

Docket No. 1:17-cv-8336

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff Bill Cannon (“Cannon” or “Plaintiff”) by and through his undersigned counsel, as and for his Complaint against AssetPro Management, Inc. (“Asset” or “Defendant”) hereby alleges as follows:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. This is an action for copyright infringement under Section 501 of the Copyright Act and for the removal and/or alteration of copyright management information under Section 1202(b) of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. This action arises out of Defendant’s unauthorized reproduction and public display of a copyright photograph of the Valley Creek Waterfall in Chester, Pennsylvania, owned and registered by Cannon, a professional photographer. Accordingly, Cannon seeks monetary relief under the Copyright Act of the United States, as amended, 17 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq.*

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. This claim arises under the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq.*, and this Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a).

3. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant transacts business in New York.

4. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b).

PARTIES

5. Cannon is a professional photographer in the business of licensing his photographs to online and print media for a fee, having a usual place of business at 4204 Houghton, Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19128.

6. Upon information and belief, Asset is a business corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Pennsylvania, with a place of business at 215 West Church Road, Suite 203, King of Prussia, PA 19406. At all times material hereto, Asset has owned and operated a website at the URL: www.AssetProMgmt.com (the “Website”).

STATEMENT OF FACTS

A. Background and Plaintiff’s Ownership of the Photograph

7. Cannon photographed the Valley Creek Waterfall in Chester, Pennsylvania (the “Photograph”). A true and correct copy of the Photograph is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

8. Cannon is the author of the Photograph and has at all times been the sole owner of all right, title and interest in and to the Photograph, including the copyright thereto.

9. The Photograph was registered with the United States Copyright Office and was given Registration Number VA 2-023-540.

B. Defendant’s Infringing Activities

10. Asset copied the Photograph and placed it on the Website. See <http://www.assetpromgmt.com/portfolio/#chester>. A screen shot of the Photograph on the Website is attached here to Exhibit B.

11. Asset did not license the Photograph from Plaintiff for its Website, nor did Asset have Plaintiff's permission or consent to publish the Photograph on its Website.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF
(COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT AGAINST ASSET)
(17 U.S.C. §§ 106, 501)

12. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in Paragraphs 1-11 above.

13. Asset infringed Plaintiff's copyright in the Photograph by reproducing and publicly displaying the Photograph on the Website. Asset is not, and has never been, licensed or otherwise authorized to reproduce, publically display, distribute and/or use the Photograph.

14. The acts of Defendant complained of herein constitute infringement of Plaintiff's copyright and exclusive rights under copyright in violation of Sections 106 and 501 of the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. §§ 106 and 501.

15. Upon information and belief, the foregoing acts of infringement by Asset have been willful, intentional, and purposeful, in disregard of and indifference to Plaintiff's rights.

16. As a direct and proximate cause of the infringement by the Defendant of Plaintiff's copyright and exclusive rights under copyright, Plaintiff is entitled to damages and defendant's profits pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504(b) for the infringement.

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF
INTEGRITY OF COPYRIGHT MANAGEMENT INFORMATION AGAINST ASSET
(17 U.S.C. § 1202)

17. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in Paragraphs 1-16 above.

18. When the Photograph was first published on Cannon's Website it contained a watermark with Plaintiff's name on it which is copyright management information protected under 17 U.S.C. § 1202(b). See Exhibit C.

19. Upon information and belief, Asset cropped out the watermark and placed it on the Website and intentionally and knowingly removed copyright management information identifying Plaintiff as the photographer of the Photograph.

20. The conduct of Asset violates 17 U.S.C. § 1202(b).

21. Asset's removal of the aforementioned copyright management information was made without the knowledge or consent of Plaintiff.

22. Upon information and belief, the removal of said copyright management information was made by Asset intentionally, knowingly and with the intent to induce, enable, facilitate, or conceal their infringement of Plaintiff's copyright in the Photograph. Asset also knew, or should have known, that such removal of said copyright management information would induce, enable, facilitate, or conceal their infringement of Plaintiff's copyright in the Photograph.

23. As a result of the wrongful conduct of Asset as alleged herein, Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Asset the damages, that he sustained and will sustain, and any gains, profits and advantages obtained by Asset because of their violations of 17 U.S.C. § 1202, including attorney's fees and costs.

24. Alternatively, Plaintiff may elect to recover from Asset statutory damages pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 1203(c)(3) in a sum of at least \$2,500 up to \$25,000 for each violation of 17 U.S.C. § 1202.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests judgment as follows:

1. That Defendant Asset be adjudged to have infringed upon Plaintiff's copyrights in the Photograph in violation of 17 U.S.C §§ 106 and 501;
2. That Asset be adjudged to have falsified, removed and/or altered copyright management information in violation of 17 U.S.C. § 1202.
3. That, with regard to the First Claim for Relief, Plaintiff be awarded Plaintiff's actual damages and Defendant's profits, gains or advantages of any kind attributable to Defendant's infringement of Plaintiff's Photograph;
4. That, with regard to the Second Claim for Relief, Plaintiff be awarded either:
 - a) Plaintiff's actual damages and Defendant's profits, gains or advantages of any kind attributable to Defendant's falsification, removal and/or alteration of copyright management information; or b) alternatively, statutory damages of at least \$2,500 and up to \$ 25,000 for each instance of false copyright management information and/or removal or alteration of copyright management information committed by Defendant pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 1203(c);
5. That Defendant be required to account for all profits, income, receipts, or other benefits derived by Defendant as a result of its unlawful conduct;
6. That Plaintiff be awarded his costs, expenses and attorneys' fees pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 1203 (b);
7. That Plaintiff be awarded pre-judgment interest; and
8. Such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable in accordance with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 38(b).

Dated: Valley Stream, New York
October 29, 2017

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